1   I CLAIM:

2   1.   A method of obtaining reports from end users about perceived errors in

3   geographic data used for providing navigation-related or map-related services from

4   computing platforms, the method comprising:

5   providing an on-line program accessible to the end users;

6   with the on-line program, providing an end user with a graphical map image of a

7   geographic area on a display screen of the end user;

8   with the on-line program, allowing the end user to mark up the graphical map

9   image using a computer pointing device; and

10   with the on-line program, allowing the end user to submit a report including the

11   mark up of the graphical map image.

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13   2.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

14   with the on-line program, allowing the end user to provide explanatory text with

15   the report.

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17   3.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

18   updating a geographic database using the report.

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20   4.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the computing platforms include

21   navigation systems.

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23   5.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the computing platforms include on-line

24   providers of navigation-related services or map-related services.

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26   6.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the end user accesses the on-line program

27   from a personal computer.

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29   7.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the end user accesses the on-line program

30   from a navigation system.

8.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the on-line program uses a geographic database to provide the graphical map image of a geographic area.on the display screen of the end user.

9.   The method of Claim 8 wherein the geographic database includes up-to-date changes.

10.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the on-line program allows the end user to pan graphical map images on the display screen.

11.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the on-line program allows the end user to zoom graphical map images on the display screen.

12.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
        updating a geographic database using the report; and
        distributing copies of updated geographic databases.

13.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the end user identifies a version of a geographic database to which the report relates.

14.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the mark up by the end user shows new road geometry.

15.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the mark up by the end user relates to a route.

16.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the mark up by the end user relates to a road name.

1   17.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the on-line program is accessed over the

2   Internet.

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4   18.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the end user obtained navigation-related

5   or map-related services using one computing platform and accesses the on-line program

6   using another computing platform.

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8   19.   A system for collecting reports from end users about perceived errors in

9   geographic data used in navigation systems and other computing platforms that provide

10   navigation-related or map-related services, the system comprising:

11   a geographic database;

12   an on-line program accessible to the end users over a network, wherein the on-line

13   program uses the geographic database to provide the end users with graphical images of

14   geographic areas containing the perceived errors and further wherein the on-line program

15   provides the end users with a drawing capability that enables the end users to indicate the

16   perceived errors by drawing markings on the graphical images using pointing devices,

17   and further wherein the on-line program captures the markings; and

18   a reports database that stores the markings captured by the on-line program.

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1   20.   A method of reporting a perceived error in geographic data used by a

2   navigation system or other computing platform that provides navigation-related or map-

3   related services, the method comprising:

4   using a computer to access an on-line reporting program;

5   using the on-line reporting program to obtain a graphical map image of a

6   geographic area on a display screen of the computer, wherein the geographic area is

7   represented by geographic data that include the perceived error;

8   using a drawing capability of the on-line reporting program to graphically indicate

9   the perceived error on the graphical map image using a pointing device of the computer;

10 and

11   using the on-line reporting program to submit a report including the graphically

12 indicated perceived error.